Production of Petroleum Products

2394. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of petroleum products during the last three years;

(b) how much petroleum has been imported during this period;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the import of petroleum products during the year 1994-95; and

(d) whether Government propose to reduce the prices of petroleum products in view of the increase in production of petroleum in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The quantity of petroleum products produced in the country including LPG and NGL from Natural Gas during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was approximately 50576 TMT, 52927 TMT and 53800 TMT respectively.

(b) The details of import of petroleum products during last 3 years are as under:—

(Figures in TMT)

Year	Crude oil	Petroleum Products
1991-92* . . .	23,994	9,445
1992-93* . . .	29,247	11,283
1993-94* . . .	30,822	12,076

*Provisional

(c) Government has approved import of 24.230 MMT of crude oil and 14.773 MMT of Petroleum Products during the year 1994-95.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Opening of New LPG Agencies in Maharashtra

2395. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of places in Maharashtra from where damands for opening of new gas agencies have been received by his ministry during the last two years;

(b) whether these demands have been scrutinised and Government are satisfied with the justification furnished by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely date when these gas agencies will be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Requests are received from different places all over the country including from Maharashtra for setting up of LPG distributorships. Locations having population of 20,000 and above are considered for setting up of LPG distributorships subject to economic viability and product availability. Accordingly, 76 locations have been included in the current LPG Marketing plan 1992-94 for Maharashtra. It takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of distributorships after issue of advertisement.

Reliance Enron Gas Field Development Plans

2396. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing some difficulty from the Reliance Enron consortium in the gasified development plans awarded to the consortium; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendations of Expert Group on Liberalisation in Oil Sector

2397. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further liberalize the petroleum sector and lift control on oil price and distribution of products viz. petrol and diesel etc. and also to replace the oil pool accounts.

(b) if so, what are the necessary details in this regard and whether concrete benefits are expected to be derived from these proposals;

(c) whether Government have set up an expert group to recommend steps to liberalize the oil sector; if so, what are the terms of reference of this expert group;

(d) whether the expert group has since submitted its report and if so, what are its important recommendations and what action has been taken on each of these recommendations; and

(e) to what extent the present policy of liberalisation has so far benefited the

country in petroleum sector, foreign investments and development and exploration of new oil fields ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A strategic Planning group on restructuring of oil industry has been set up with the following terms of reference :

(i) Assess the emerging global Oil and Gas scene; trends in exploration and production, refining capacities, pattern of demand for products and crude oil, movement of international prices, development of alternate fuels and evolvement of new technology and R&D.

(ii) Assess the role of Oil & Natural Gas on long term basis in meeting the commercial energy requirement of the increasingly globalised Indian economy.

(iii) Identify the role of Government and the market forces for restructuring and developing a self-reliant and robust Indian Oil Industry with International cost competitivenes and globle presence.

(iv) Analyse strength and weakness of the Indian Oil Industry and develop strategic action plan for reform keeping in focus environment and ecology, sustanable growth and provide the national economy the "energy security".

(d) The above Group has not yet submitted its Report.

(e) Parallel marketing by private parties has been introduced in respect of Kerosene, LPG and LSHS. Upto September, 94. 27749 MTs of LPG, 292 TMTs of SKO and 202 of LSHS have been imported by the private parties. Naphta has been put under OGL. Import of FO and ATF has also been permitted under SIL. Investment by 9 private parties in refinery sector and some joint ventures in marketing and exploration have been firmed up. The anticipated benefits from the award of exploration blocks and discovered fields are likely to be induction of foreign capital, access to the latest technology and early augmentation to production and additional accretion to hydrocarbon reserves.

Delay in Providing LPG Connections to Consumers

2398. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting list for LPG connections has crossed the 2 million mark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the present indications, an applicant has to wait for 7 years for getting a new connection; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that parallel marketing of LPG connection has yet to take off, if so, what are the reasons for delay in providing LPG connections to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The waiting list as on 1-10-1994 is about 11.5 millions. In some locations, waiting list is quite old. Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible by augmenting product availability through higher production from existing sources, commissioning of new production sources and imports.

(c) The private agencies are excepted to commence activities under the said scheme depending on their commercial decision. However, much progress has not been noticed so far, which is basically on account of lack of import facilities with parallel marketeers. Some of them have taken action to develop their own import facilities and other infrastructure.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/Gas Agencies on out of turn basis

2399. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Supreme Court was examining the matter of discretionary authority of the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas to sanction LPG agencies and petrol pumps on out-of-turn/adhoc basis, as was reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated, 17th December, 1993;

(b) if so, has the Court gone into the matter and given any pronouncement on the subject;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the number of petrol pumps and LPG outlets sanctioned on adhoc/out-of-turn basis by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas in each of the last three years, giving the names of the persons to whom sanctioned, at what places and the specific reasons/grounds therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Public Interest Litigation challenging the discretionary authority of the Government to allot dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is presently pending before the